

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated November 21, 2006, claim 1 is amended. Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13-18 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

I. Claims 1-4 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamoto et al. (USPN 6,139,088).

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 has been amended to delineate, *inter alia*:

a base plate to which at least a window regulator module is assembled, a single piece element forming the entire base plate with the base plate having a peripheral edge adapted to be attached to a vehicle outer side peripheral portion of the inner edge of the inner panel, such that the peripheral edge makes contact with the vehicle outer side peripheral portion of the inner edge so that the base plate wholly covers the central opening of the inner panel.

That is, by having the entire base plate be formed of a single piece with the base plate having a peripheral edge adapted to be attached to a vehicle outer side peripheral portion of the inner edge of the inner panel, such that the peripheral edge makes contact with the vehicle outer side peripheral portion of the inner edge so that the base plate wholly covers the central opening of the inner panel, it becomes possible to reliably improve the sound insulation of the door itself.

In Okamoto et al., the base plate is attached to a compartment side of the inner panel 2 with which the recess 7 is formed through the packing 24 (see Figs. 2 and 3).

Therefore, Okamoto et al. does not disclose the features now recited in amended independent claim 1.

Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Okamoto et al., as are dependent claims 2-4 and 7, and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

II. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9-11, 13-16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakaguchi et al. (USPN 6,640,497).

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 16 require that “the base plate wholly covers the central opening of the inner panel”. Even if were presumed that the Examiner were correct in that frame structure 40 was a base plate, Fig. 3 of Sakaguchi et al. clearly shows that the central opening, which the Examiner contends is shown in Fig. 2, is not wholly covered as at least reinforcing members 14, provided for reinforcing outer panel 13, are exposed. This would not occur if the frame structure 40 wholly covered the opening shown in Fig. 2. Furthermore, since the central opening is not wholly covered, the sound insulation of the door is not improved.

Thus, amended independent claim 1 and independent claim 16, as well as dependent claims 5, 6, 9-11, 13-15 and 18, are patentable over Sakaguchi et al. (and Okamoto et al.).

At any rate, independent claim 16 has been amended similar to independent claim 1 and now recites, *inter alia*:

a base plate to which at least a window regulator module is assembled, a single piece element forming the entire base plate, the base plate having a peripheral edge adapted to be attached to a vehicle outer

side peripheral portion of the inner edge of the inner panel so that the base plate wholly covers the central opening of the inner panel.

In view of the above, the allowance of claims 1, 5, 6, 9-11, 13-16 and 18, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

II. Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaguchi et al., as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Baldamus et al. (USPN 4,648,208).

However, claim 17 depends from amended independent claim 1, which is patentable over Sakaguchi et al. Consequently, claim 17 is patentable over Sakaguchi et al. also, even considered in view of Baldamus et al. Therefore, the allowance of claim 17 is respectfully solicited also.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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